

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 85

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dallas R. "Dal" Jones for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Dallas R. "Dal" Jones is one such noteworthy person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, rarely in the history of mankind do individuals of such high regard arise from the masses, but when they do, they shine out like a beacon in the darkness, drawing to them all who seek hope, guidance, compassion, and comfort; and

WHEREAS, Dal Jones is such a beacon, a blazing light of justice and goodness who throws into sharp contrast all which fails to measure up to the standards of excellence he has displayed throughout his entire life; and

WHEREAS, one of Tennessee's outstanding sons, Mr. Jones constantly strives to make his state and country better places in which to live; he applies to his life and actions the tenet of "help as many as I can, as long as I can, as much as I can," a truly noble and inspiring enterprise, and is a firm believer in the Benjamin Franklin quote that "Well done is better than well said"; and

WHEREAS, a native of Erwin, Mr. Jones graduated from Unicoi County High School before attending Steed University, the University of Oklahoma, and East Tennessee State University, from which he graduated with a degree in Industrial Technology and Management; and

WHEREAS, willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, Dal Jones served in the United States Army for three years, winning the Soldier of the Month Award in February of 1961; and

WHEREAS, his valor and patriotism are renowned, as evidenced by his establishment of the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Bristol High School and perseverance in the establishment of the Vietnam War memorial on the campus of East Tennessee State University, honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice during that war; and

WHEREAS, this talented man has plied his significant abilities in a number of professional positions, including as a Support Postal Operations Officer and Post Master for the United States Postal Service until 1982; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Postal Service in Erwin, and his meteoric rise from a clerkship through the positions of letter carrier, Assistant Post Master, Superintendent of Postal Operations, Officer in Charge (OIC) in Flagpond, OIC in Unicoi, OIC in Elizabethton, OIC in Hampton, OIC in Roan Mountain, OIC in Bristol, Station Manager of the East Side Station in Kingsport, Director of Employee and Labor Relations, Director of Human Resources MSCF, OIC in Rogersville, OIC in Clinton, OIC in Loudon, and Superintendent of Postal Operations in Oak Ridge, ultimately culminating in his role as the OIC and Post Master in Dallas, Texas, where he retired in 1982, is attributable to his unwavering dedication to excellence and hard work and his firm belief that neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night should stay a courier from the swift completion of his or her appointed rounds; and

WHEREAS, following his postal service, Dal Jones contributed his not-inconsiderable talents and abilities as the Business Manager of Southern Methodist University between 1984 and 1986, as the Manager of American Press in Gordonsville, Virginia, between 1988 and 1990, and as the Manager of Civitan, Incorporated in Richmond, Virginia, between 1990 and 1991; and

WHEREAS, a consummate public servant, Mr. Jones has worked for the improvement of the quality of life for his fellow citizens as the Mayor of Erwin, gaining the elected position after unseating a sixteen-year office holder, and as a Justice of the Peace for the 3rd District Unicoi

County Court Magistrate. Furthermore, he has served as a member of the planning commission, the industrial commission, the Patronage Committee, the State Board of Health, and the State Council of Vocational Education and as the Director of the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Dal Jones, an invaluable part of his community, has been involved in a multiplicity of civic and community organizations, including the board of directors of Unicoi County Rescue Squad, the board of directors of the Erwin YMCA, the Evan's Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association, the Free and Accepted Mason Lodge 408 as 32 degree Scottish Rite, and the Elks; and

WHEREAS, during his time of service with the Unicoi County Rescue Squad board of directors, Mr. Jones was responsible for the construction of the new building, notably at no cost to the public; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones has lent his laudable leadership skills to the Unicoi County Utility District as Commissioner and Chairman, standing as Commissioner for fourteen years; the Community Chest, serving as Vice President; the Erwin Jaycees, standing as Vice President; the Unicoi County United Fund Drive as Vice President; the Unicoi County Chapter of the American Red Cross as Vice President; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Erwin as Trustee and Post Chaplain between 1970-1973; and

WHEREAS, additionally, he is a Shriner, standing as the Chair of the Crippled Children Committee and a charter member of the Kingsport Temple; is a member of the first Tennessee/Virginia Development District; is Vice Chairman of the Industrial Commission; was a member of the State Board of Health between 1989-1993, during which time he was largely responsible for the construction of the Long Term Health Care Unit in Erwin; was a member of the State of Tennessee Council of Vocational Education in 1974, during which tenure he established the vocational program and secured the construction of the building; holds credit as the person responsible for the construction of the new jail and detention center in Erwin; joined with Congressman Jimmy Quillen and designer Lee Kribbs to build the Fishery Park in Erwin; is responsible for the Erwin-By-pass, which was constructed in 1971; and was a member of the Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was appointed by the Governor to serve on the board of directors for the Northeast Tennessee Community Services Agency; and

WHEREAS, dedicating his time to imparting his vast knowledge of life and of sports and his belief in the importance of proper sportsmanship and competition to the younger generation, Dal Jones coached elementary age children in the sports of football, basketball, and baseball; and

WHEREAS, Dal Jones is currently engaged as a Deputy Sheriff in both Washington and Unicoi counties, as a substitute Professor of Military Science at East Tennessee State University, and as a volunteer for the Manna House and the Ripley House, which endeavor to assist homeless and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and acclaim, Mr. Jones has been presented with a plethora of awards, including the 1970 Distinguished Service Award, the 1970 and 1971 Key Man Award, the 1971 Outstanding Young Man of America Award, the 1971 Spoke Award, the 1971 Freedom Guard Award, and the 1970-1971 Community Service Award; he has also been recognized as Colonel, Aide de Camp under five different governors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones has been an active and devout member of the Calvary Baptist Church for many years, serving as a Sunday School teacher for college age, career age, and Senior Adult classes, as the coach of the basketball team, as a Deacon, and as the past President of the Church Brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, when not involved in his many accomplishments, associations, contributions to society, and commitments to civic institutions, Mr. Jones enjoys spending his time pursuing his favorite hobbies of car racing, bass fishing, and poker; and

WHEREAS, Dal Jones epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding record of public service and his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Jones is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Susan Brown Jones; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dal Jones for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dallas R. "Dal" Jones for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, applauding his great and generous service to his fellow man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.